

professional careers. The work of the fraternity has truly embodied its principle of "en la union está la fuerza" (in unity there is strength). Lambda Theta Phi has helped provide a number of Latinos with a strong sense of community and an extensive peer network as they graduate college and embark on their professional careers.

Lambda Theta Phi also continues to provide valuable service to the community through responsible political and social action. The diverse makeup of the fraternity places it in a unique position to promote cultural awareness and to provide positive role models for the Latino community. Lambda Theta Phi is known for its dedication to activities that benefit the community including citizenship and voter registration drives, disaster relief, and Hispanic college days, which provide an opportunity for Latino high school students to visit colleges.

As an honorary member of Lambda Theta Phi, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate all the members of the fraternity and wish them the best as they continue to connect Latinos across the country and help to build unity among the next generation of Latino leaders.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Lambda Theta Phi Fraternidad Latina for promoting unity among Latinos, and to congratulate all the members of the fraternity as they celebrate their 2003 National Brotherhood Conference.

RECOGNITION OF WORLD REFUGEE DAY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I stand today as Ranking Member of the Africa Subcommittee and Member of the Refugee Caucus to recognize World Refugee Day, declared on June 20, 2000 by a special UN General Assembly Resolution. The Republic of Tanzania has a solid record of supporting and harboring the largest number of refugees in Africa and therefore I extend my respect unto this nation for its vitally important work. These refugees have fled from conflicts in neighboring countries such as Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Somalia. I affirm and commend the generosity of Tanzania towards refugees and asylum seekers and urge that they be fully recognized by our nation.

Statistics show that approximately 700,000 refugees have found safe haven in Tanzania. Tanzania has also displayed its generosity through the acceptance of 3,500 Somali Bantus for resettlement in the eastern part of the country. In the west, refugees fleeing conflict and genocide in countries like Burundi, Rwanda and Congo have also found refuge in this nation. Emerging from a long and bloody civil war that lasted a decade and claimed the lives of more than 100,000 people while displacing hundreds of thousands, Burundi is only now getting back on its feet. The Great Lakes Region of the African continent is one of great beauty and a long history but has in recent years been plagued by many bloody conflicts and ethnic warfare. The wars in the Congo and Rwanda are two more examples of such

conflicts. Tanzania provided a safe haven for some 120,000 Congolese refugees and some 25,000 refugees from Rwanda by the end of 2001. I am hopeful that the on-going peace efforts in a number of these neighboring countries will hopefully provide the opportunity for these refugees to repatriate to their homes in safety and dignity. I must at the same time note that the resolution of the conflicts that have driven these refugees from their homes is not by any means guaranteed to be accomplished in the near future as the region is quite volatile and unpredictable. Therefore the generosity of Tanzania could very well be called upon again. This is even more reason that I offer my respect to this country that has provided this noble service.

While harboring refugees is often perceived as being a burden, Tanzania provides an example of how this service can also be functional within the context of administering a nation. Refugees can provide human and economic resources for a nation to draw upon. On this Refugee Day I recognize the efforts of Tanzania and recognize the 3.1 million refugees and more than 10 million Internally Displaced Persons on the continent of Africa. May you soon be able to return to your homes in safety, security, and health.

HONORING NORMAN AND MARILYN COOPER ON THEIR GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, Marilyn (Isaacs) and Norman Cooper were high school sweethearts in Brooklyn, NY, who spent their first married years together at Fort Gordon, Georgia, during Norman's military service in the Korean Conflict. Returning to New York together, with little more than each other, they successfully built a thriving pest control business and raised a loving family.

Their passions for art, food, culture and adventure have taken Marilyn and Norman Cooper to the far reaches of the globe. While hiking the Andes, heli-skiing in New Zealand, on safari in Africa, lecturing in Japan or trekking in Tibet or India, they have developed an appreciation for the diversity of the world, as well as the common bonds of all humanity.

Marilyn and Norman Cooper have always sought to better the world around them, whether helping dissidents escape the Soviet Union during the cold war, volunteering for the Children's Blood Foundation in their hometown of Rye, NY, raising funds for the United Jewish Appeal, or helping other entrepreneurs achieve their dreams. Their enduring legacy includes three children and seven grandchildren, each imbued with their values of compassion, curiosity, intellect, creativity, love and the responsibility to help make the world a better place.

LEGISLATION RECOGNIZING PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S FOUNDING OF THE LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak today to introduce legislation recognizing President Kennedy's founding of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law by supporting the designation of June 21, 2003 as "Equal Justice Day" in honor of the Committee's tireless efforts over the past 40 years to secure justice and equal opportunity for all. On June 21, 1963, I was summoned to White House along with 250 other members of the bar by President Kennedy to help resolve the civil rights crises which gripped the nation. Without President Kennedy's vision for racial justice, the bar would have remained silent in the face of vocal resistance by southern state legislatures against desegregation.

For more than four decades, the Lawyers' Committee has worked to advance the civil rights of African Americans and other racial and ethnic minority communities in the areas of environmental protection, employment, affirmative action, fair housing, and voting. The Committee protects fundamental civil rights by representing African Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities and women in the courts, advocating strong enforcement of civil rights laws before administrative bodies, working in coalition with other organizations, and by educating the public about important civil rights issues. Among many other achievements over the years, the Lawyers' Committee was successful in: fighting for passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, securing a landmark, unanimous U.S. Supreme Court Decision that strengthened First Amendment protections for peaceful political boycotts in *Claiborne Hardware Co. v. NAACP*, and coordinating a Church Burning Project in the 1990s to provide free legal services to churches that were destroyed during the bitter rampage of racially motivated church burnings.

By supporting the designation of June 21, 2003 as "Equal Justice Day", we will recognize the achievements of the Lawyers' Committee, as its staff and pro-bono attorneys, clients and friends commemorate and celebrate its 40th anniversary. I urge you to support this legislation that will honor President Kennedy's commitment to implementing justice reflected in the accomplishments of the Lawyers' Committee and the many hours of pro-bono service offered by lawyers and law firms throughout this country.

RECOGNITION OF WORLD REFUGEE DAY

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize World Refugee Day, declared on June 20, 2000 and every year thereafter by a special UN General Assembly Resolution. The adoption of this resolution marked an expression of solidarity with Africa, which hosts the